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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/534,867	10/28/2005	Tiziano Scubla	2503-1148	6915
466	7590	08/30/2007	EXAMINER	
YOUNG & THOMPSON			WITHERSPOON, SIKARL A	
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET			ART UNIT	
2ND FLOOR			PAPER NUMBER	
ARLINGTON, VA 22202			1621	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/30/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/534,867	SCUBLA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sikarl A. Witherspoon	1621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 May 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/12/05.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Treves et al (Environ. Sci. Technol., 2000), Droux et al (WO 98/25918) and Kirk-Othmer: Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, vol. 10, 1993, all in combination.

The instant claims are drawn to a process for the separation of 1,4-butanediol mononitrate from a solution of 1,4-butanediol dinitrate and 1,4-butanediol, by extracting the mononitrate with water, and then extracting the mononitrate with a water-immiscible solvent.

Treves et al teach the preparation of 1,4-butanediol mononitrate (4-nitrooxy-1-butanol) by nitrating 1,4-butanediol followed by isolation by flash chromatography on silica gel (p 1198, method 1). While silent on the dinitrate, it would have been apparent that some of the butanediol would have been nitrated such that at least small amounts of the dinitrate was produced in addition to the mononitrate.

The major difference between Treves et al and the instant claims is that Treves does not teach the claimed extraction to isolate 1,4-butanediol mononitrate.

Droux et al, however, teach that nitroxyalcohols are produced by nitrating the corresponding diol with nitric acid, in chloroform or trichloromethane, and then

Art Unit: 1621

separating the nitroxyalcohol by first extracting with water, and then with an organic chlorinated solvent, in two consecutive extraction columns (prep. 1, 3, and 4).

The Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology teaches that for liquid-liquid extractions, such as that which taught by Droux et al, it is useful for multistage contacting (extractions) to be arranged in counter-current manner, especially for commercial-scale operations, for balance between high extract concentration and high degree of extraction of the solute (p 137).

In view of the combined reference teachings, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to substitute the use of flash chromatography to separate the butanediol mononitrate, as taught by Treves, with a counter-current liquid-liquid extraction as suggested by Droux et al and The Encyclopedia. The butanediol monohydrate is an important intermediate in producing esters having pharmacological utility. Therefore, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to combine the above prior art in the manner suggested with desire to, and reasonable expectation of success in finding a technique for isolating the butanediol monohydrate that would afford the purest possible product.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sikarl A. Witherspoon whose telephone number is 571-272-0649. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached on 571-272-0871. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Sikarl A. Witherspoon
SIKARL A. WITHERSPOON
PRIMARY EXAMINER